Do Not 3/2/04 IN THE UNITED STATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: TOCHISHITA, et al.

Filed: June 19, 2001

Serial No.: 09/883,334

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Timothy H. Meeks

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 3027

For: SURFACE-TREATING SUPPORT MEMBER, SURFACE-TREATING HOLDER, SURFACE-TREATING PROCESS, AND SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116 - EXPEDITED RESPONSE GROUP ART UNIT 1762

MAILSTOP AF

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 9, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2003, extended to March 9, 2004 by a 3 month Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.